

## **October Branch Meeting**

**Thursday, October 16 - 6:30 p.m.**  
**Community Arts Council**



Well, our plans  
for the Branch  
Meeting fizzled!

### **A CHANGE OF PLANS.....**

We are disappointed. Nolan Finley, the scheduled speaker for our October meeting, is not able to meet with us. As editor of the Detroit News, he is being sent on assignment to Washington DC.

However, he has agreed to join us for our November branch meeting.

Finley has recently co-authored "The Civility Book-a guide to building bridges across the political divide." It is an interesting read. I'm sure he will discuss the book and other interesting topics when he meets with us.

**Please plan to pay \$10.**  
**Money collected will go toward**  
**the cost of purchased food and**  
**the building rent.**

**Supper will be Lee's Famous**  
**Chicken, side salads, desserts,**  
**and beverages.**

# *From the Presidents ...*



Dear AAUW Friends,

Happy October! Though the fall season officially began in September, it sure has felt like a continuation of summer-time weather! It won't be long though, before temperatures will be cooler, the leaves will change colors, and it will be time to break out the jackets and decorate our front porches with fall flowers, wreaths and pumpkins! It's a busy time of year with home, family, careers, meetings, volunteering and other challenges.

It's also a good time to think about your role as a member of our Plymouth-Canton AAUW branch. There are many ways to become involved in our group. Monthly branch meetings are a great way to meet new friends, enjoy a meal together, learn from our guest speakers, and to educate ourselves about issues facing women in our world today. Our Plymouth-Canton branch also invites you to join our Book Club, get involved with diversity projects and to help with our scholarship fundraisers and/or our annual children's play that we perform in February. Our play this year will be "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs." Take a look at our newsletter, The Catalyst, to find out about further opportunities to become involved. You can also contact a board member for further information, as well.

Please take some time to access the AAUW website. Go to <https://aauwmi.org> to find a wealth of information at the national, state and branch levels. You'll find news, articles, webinars, fundraising programs, fellowships and grants and more!

Many of our members have expressed concern about the changes that have been made in our government and how these changes affect AAUW. Though our organization is non-profit and nonpartisan, we are not values-neutral and will continue to advocate for federal, state and local laws and policies to ensure equity and end discrimination for women and girls.

So, we hope that you will join us on October 16<sup>th</sup> at the Plymouth Community Arts Council, beginning at 6:30 pm. We'll surround ourselves with friendship and be comforted by this warmth, as we remember our dear friend, Meredith Conte, who would want us to stay strong and continue to fight to make a difference and create a better world for all girls and women.

Sincerely,

*Dawn and Mickey*



"Mirror, Mirror on the wall, who's the fairest of them all?" We'll find out this Thursday starting at 6 pm at Mickey's when tryouts for Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs are happening! Kaytee will send out the script this week. If you cannot attend on Thursday, please let Kaytee or Helene know the parts you are interested in.

Your Directors -- Kaytee and Helene

## **BOOK GROUP**

The Book Group will meet Thursday, October 23, at Pam Dean's home to discuss Heartwood by Amity Gaige. All are welcome. We'll see you there!



Helene and Mickey

# Promoting Public Policy

Mickey Edell, Public Policy Director

Government Shutdown: A Devastating Betrayal of Students. Just recently two blows are an unprecedented crisis for America's students: The federal government shutdown and the U.S. Department of Education firing nearly half of its civil rights enforcement staff. This leaves students without the protections and services they urgently need. The Office for Civil Rights is the nation's frontline defense against discrimination— from sexual harassment and assault cases under Title IX to disability access and race discrimination. Now with the shutdown in effect, reviews and investigations are suspended, so students are left in limbo. The Department is also implementing sweeping changes, including eliminating Grad PLUS loans and capping graduate borrowing at levels that will price many women and students of color out of advanced degrees. Meanwhile the shutdown is halting financial aid processing, disrupting critical research, pausing community-based programs, and dismantling the civil rights protections meant to keep schools safe and fair.

AAUW is not staying silent and calls on Congress to end the shutdown immediately and to push back on the mass firings of staff tasked with civil rights enforcement. The American promise of equal opportunity in education cannot survive, if the government abandons its role as guarantor of students' rights.

In Solidarity, Mickey  
**Because equity is still an issue!**



## My Sincere Thanks



I am sending thanks to our members who attended the pilot program of using *Music, Rhythmic Movements, and Humor* to alleviate anxiety, depression, pain, and loneliness. I presented the project with pictures during the finals weekend at Berklee College of Music's Music and Health Institute on September 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. As a result, I am certified as a Community Health Musician.

Displayed at our next chapter meeting, the pictures clearly express how levels of anxiety, depression, pain, and loneliness could not have been any lower. My plan is to spread the use of these under-used tools in the community for improved health. Thank you, Mickey, for allowing us to use your home and a special thanks to Meredith, our AAUW Angel who took the pictures and is smiling down on us from heaven.



Dianne Hartman